2016-2017 NSERC P/CGSD COMPETITION

DEADLINES

Applications, including all supporting documentation, must be in the CSB Graduate Office (Room 424F of the Ramsay Wright Building) by:

NSERC CGS & PGS: Monday September 28th, 2015 at 5 pm
Note: there is a single application and selection process for the PGSD & CGSD awards.

NSERC PDF: October 15th – Apply online, directly to NSERC

For PDFs, if you are contacting former institutions to obtain transcripts and supporting documents, including the **Reports on the Applicant**, please remember that it may take time for them to provide you with the information you need for your application. It is advisable to plan ahead. Make sure you allow enough time before the application deadline.

You will be unable to submit your application after 8:00 p.m., ET, of the applicable deadline date.

WEBSITE

General NSERC website:
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/

NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships – Information, and how to apply:
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures_eng.asp

Form 201 instructions:
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp

Award Holder's Guide: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Guides-Guides/index_eng.asp

AWARD VALUES

PGS Doctoral: $21, 000 per year for up to 3 years

CGS Doctoral: $35,000 per year for up to 3 years

Note: You can receive a maximum of 4 years of NSERC funding at the graduate level; therefore, if you previously held a 2 year Master's award (which is no longer possible for recent recipients), you are only eligible for 2 years of the PGS and CGS doctoral awards.

NSERC PDF: $45, 000 per year for 2 years

START DATE

PGSD & CGSD:

If you have already begun the program of studies for which funding was awarded, you may begin your award in May 2016 or September 2016.

If you have not yet begun the program of studies for which funding was awarded, you may take up the award on May 2016, September 2016, or January 2017.

PDF: Award may begin at any time between April 1st, 2016 and January 15th, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY

NSERC Doctoral Awards

Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.

Applicants must have at LEAST an A- (80.0%) average in **EACH** of their last two years of full time study.

For a minimum duration of 24 months and a maximum duration of 36 months, the award may be held in either the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th years of graduate study in a doctoral program (plus a 5th year for direct entry or PhD transfer students).

You must have completed, as of December 31st of the year of application, no more than the full-time equivalent of 24 months of studies in the doctoral program for which you are requesting funding.

If you were admitted directly from your bachelor's program, you must have completed, as of December 31st of the year of application, the full-time equivalent of between 4 and 36 months of studies in the doctoral program.

If you are registered in a Master's degree and subsequently transferred to a doctoral degree, the months in the doctoral degree will be calculated starting from the first academic session in which you were officially registered in your Ph.D. program.

You must not have previously taken up an NSERC PGS D/B, IPS 2, or CGS D from either CIHR or SSHRC.

PDF applicants

* Applicants must expect to complete all doctoral requirements by **September 1st** of the year following the award announcement, or you must have completed all requirements of your first doctoral degree no more than **two years** before the deadline date of the year in which you apply.
* NSERC uses the date of degree completion to determine applicant eligibility. This is the date on which all requirements of your degree have been met, including successful defense and submission of the corrected copy of your thesis.
* Applicants may apply only ONCE for a PDF, effective as of the 2013 competition.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

NSERC PGSD & CGSD

Currently registered graduate students at a Canadian university must apply through their home department and university. To apply for these scholarships, you must create an online account on the NSERC website and complete and submit an Application for Postgraduate Scholarship or Postdoctoral Fellowship on-line (Form 201). Read the instructions on how to complete Form 201 at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/e.asp#appinfo

Applicants not currently registered but who attended a Canadian university between January and December 2015 should apply through their former home department and university.

Applicants who attended and graduated from a Canadian university prior to January 2015, or those who are attending or who attended a foreign university must submit their application directly to NSERC by 8 pm on October 15th.

RECENT CHANGES

There have been some major changes to the application, such as:

1) Students submit a Form 201 online, and no longer need to sign a paper copy. However, students will still need to print a copy of their finalized application and submit it to the CSB Graduate Office by September 28th. Students should also submit updated transcripts by the September 28th deadline.

2) The application asks for a "University Designate" for the applicant to enter on their application. The University Designate will be able to upload the applicants' transcript. In the Department of Cell and Systems Biology, the designate is Ian Buglass, and the email address is ian.buglass@utoronto.ca. An email request will automatically be sent to the University Designate.

3) Students will not have access to view the Reports that their references complete. They will see however, if the report has been completed or not.

4) Students will be able to click "Submit" after they have completed and verified their application, and the CSB Graduate Office has uploaded their transcripts. Only applicants that will have their applications forwarded to SGS will have to formally "submit" their application online. The CSB Graduate Office will notify all applicants if their applications need to be submitted, and once submitted, SGS will then have access to the student's application. The application will not be submitted to NSERC at that point. **Once a student has clicked "Submit", they will no longer be able to amend their application online.** If a student needs to change their application after it has been submitted, they should provide their graduate unit with a separate attachment reflecting the changes.

5) PGSD applicants do not complete the "Justification for Location of Tenure" section, but you DO complete the "Proposed Location(s) of Tenure" section.

6) If you list other universities/departments in the "Location of Tenure" section, the proposed supervisor may not be one of the respondents filling out a Report on the Applicant, **unless** he/she is a current/former thesis supervisor.

7) Online Tutorial for Students: NSERC is pleased to announce that an online tutorial for applicants is once again available on their website. The tutorial can be found on NSERC's website at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos-Videos/pgs-bes_eng.asp

The process for applying for supplements to the PGS/CGS awards has changed significantly in the past few years. Successful applicants are now required to apply for the appropriate supplements directly to the sponsoring agency AFTER the results of the PGS competition are announced in March/April.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts can take up to 10 business days to process. You can have your transcript sent directly to the CSB Graduate Office or if you were a UofT student, pick them up at the UofT Transcript Centre in a signed and sealed envelope. Order over ROSI (www.rosi.utoronto.ca) or in person at the Transcript Centre (Room 1006, Sidney Smith Hall). Transcripts must be up-to-date as of August 31st, 2015.

You do not need to order transcripts from other universities attended if the CSB Graduate Office has a copy of the transcript(s) in your student file, provided that the transcript(s) covers all coursework taken through August 31, 2015.

**Even if you began your PhD in CSB in September 2015, NSERC does require a UofT transcript as proof of registration in the program.

REPORTS ON THE APPLICANT (i.e. reference letters)

The NSERC website provides the following guidelines, when choosing referees:

The two 'Reports on the Applicant' must be completed by persons capable of making an informed assessment.

- One report should be from a person very familiar with your research and other abilities, e.g. current academic research supervisor or industrial supervisor (in the case of co-op students); previous academic research, industrial or USRA supervisor.
- The second report should be from a person sufficiently familiar with your research and other abilities to provide a meaningful commentary.

And as noted above, the **proposed** supervisor may not be one of the respondents filling out a Report on the Applicant, **unless** he/she is a current/former thesis supervisor

- Contact your proposed reviewers to ensure they are willing to complete a report for you. In the Reference Letters page of your application, enter the names and e-mail addresses of each of the reviewers who will be completing a report, as well as the deadline on which you would like the report to be completed (should be slightly before the application deadline). Once the information is saved, an e-mail containing the appropriate links will be forwarded to the reviewer so that he or she may view your completed application and complete the form. The status of the request can be verified on this page.

TIPS

*Make sure that you are applying to the correct Federal Granting Agency. See the webpage listed below, to ensure that your application is suitable for NSERC. Any health-related applications/research proposals belong in the CIHR competition (applications are due directly to CIHR by October 1st).
http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FEE7261A-1
Another link with a list of examples of what constitutes NSERC-eligible fields can be found at:
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/Addendum-Addenda_eng.asp

*READ ALL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, SELECTION CRITERIA AND CHECKLISTS ON THE WEBSITES CAREFULLY. There are all kinds of helpful tips and information there for you if you take the time to look for them. Read the instructions for "**How to Complete Form 201**".

*The NSERC website has a series of tutorial videos, which can be a useful tool to view prior to starting your application. These can be found under 'Students and Fellows' and then 'Resource Videos'. One of the videos is the NSERC PGS/CGS application tutorial, and there is another (Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship). These videos are each 3-5 minutes in length.

*Read through the PowerPoint slides for NSERC doctoral applicants.

SGS Information sessions for scholarship applicants:
St. George campus: Friday, September 11, 2015
Location: Room 2102, Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George Street
Time: 10:00-11:30 am. NSERC Doctoral Awards & NSERC Vanier CGS (representative from NSERC will be presenting)
U of T Scarborough (UTSC): Tuesday, September 15, 2015
Location: SW 403 (Science Wing), 1265 Military Trail, Scarborough
Time: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm: Doctoral awards (NSERC/SSHRC) & Vanier CGS Award
U of T Mississauga (UTM): Friday, September 18, 2015
Location: Room 3129, William G. Davis Building, 3359 Mississauga Road
Time: 1:15 pm to 3:00 pm: Doctoral awards (NSERC/SSHRC) & Vanier CGS Award